Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/29/2021 6:43:05 PM
First name: Linda
Last name: Seifried
Organization:
Title:
Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your Draft Revised Forest Plan.

I feel very strongly that the voice of Native Americans, who have lived on and managed these lands sustainably for centuries, should be listened to when writing the new plan. Native knowledge keepers have managed these lands for hundreds of generations, and Indigenous traditional knowledge deserves a big place in a new plan. For example, The plan should place the highest priority on preservation of cultural sites [and also expand the definition of cultural sites beyond the Western constructs of archeology. The forest should include cultural resources as defined by Native nations, including culturally significant plants, waters, gathering places, and more.]

The Manti-La Sal is so important to so many for a variety of reasons. Another big concern is old-growth trees (over 150 years old). These are priceless for wildlife, and need to be protected - and younger forests need to be allowed to develop into old-growth stands in the future.

Additionally, it's important to me that you adopt the Conservation Alternatives wilderness proposal and establish the following protected areas: Left Fork Huntington Creek Research Natural Area, Sinbad Ridge Research Natural Area, Red Towers Botanical Area, and Heliotrope Botanical Area. I like how their plan uses existing roads and trails as boundaries, so the public can still use them, but preserves land within those markers.

As for cattle grazing - instead of the present 60% level, the best available science shows that 30% utilization is not only better for the health of the land, but also is better for the economics of grazing. Please reduce the level to 30%.

Lastly, Bear's Ears is a separate issue [soon to be revised anyway]. Planning for a renewed Bears Ears National Monument belongs in a revised monument management plan, not this forest plan. It should be written in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management and with shared input from Native nations.

Thank you again for considering my comments.